



Shropshire Council  
Legal and Democratic Services  
Shirehall  
Abbey Foregate  
Shrewsbury  
SY2 6ND

Date: Monday, 15 June 2015  
My Ref:  
Your Ref:

**Committee:**  
**Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership**

**Date:** Thursday, 25 June 2015  
**Time:** 9.30 am  
**Venue:** Snailbeach Village Hall, SY5 0NX

You are requested to attend the above meeting.  
The Agenda is attached

Claire Porter  
Corporate Head of Legal and Democratic Services (Monitoring Officer)

**Members of Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership**

George Chancellor (Chairman)	Dave Cowell
Tim Barker (Vice Chairman)	Ian Dormor
James Williamson (Vice Chairman)	Carol Griffiths
Heather Kidd	Geoff Grimes
Cecilia Motley	Alan Jones
David Turner	Sue Jones
Chris Turley	Jenny Joy
Alison Caffyn	Jo Jury
Harriet Carty	Bill Klemperer
Edward Dugdale	Sue Lee
Fiona Pidduck	Marc Liebrecht
Elizabeth Thomas	Hazel MacDowell
Dr Keith Bartlett	Mr David Mills
Caroline Bedell	Vivienne Parry
Gillian Binks	Mr Andy Pugh
Tony Bostock	Ronald Repath
Sarah Bury	David C. Smith
Lee Chapman	Leo Smith
Ms Hilary Clayton-Smith	Ms Donna Tavenor
Veronica Cossons	Michael Whithouse

Your Committee Officer is:

**Tim Ward** Committee Officer

Tel: 01743 252739

Email: [tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk)

# AGENDA

**1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

To receive apologies for absence

**2 Note of the last meeting (Pages 1 - 6)**

The note of the meeting held on 17 March 2015 is attached for approval

**3 AONB Partnership Activity Update (Pages 7 - 10)**

This paper provides members with a summary update of recent activity of the AONB Partnership staff team, and a staffing update.

**4 LEADER 2015 - 20**

Report to Follow

**5 AONB Partnership Biennial Membership Review (Pages 11 - 14)**

This paper provides information to inform the biennial membership review for the Partnership, and seeks decisions on the extent of review desired.

**6 Proposed Charitable Organisation (Pages 15 - 16)**

This paper provides members with an update on progress to establish the Shropshire Hills AONB Conservation Fund as a charity, and invites any volunteers to come forward for the voluntary trustee roles.

**7 River Clun Recovery Project**

To receive a presentation on the River Clun Recovery Project

**8 Date of next meeting**

Members are advised that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 17 November 2015

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Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership

25 June 2015

9.30 am

Item

2

Public

**MINUTES OF THE SHROPSHIRE HILLS AONB PARTNERSHIP MEETING HELD ON 17 MARCH 2015 9.30 - 11.55 AM**

**Responsible Officer:** Tim Ward  
 Email: tim.ward@shropshire.gov.uk Tel: 01743 252739

**Present**

**Local Authorities**

Shropshire Council  
 Cllr Tim Barker (Vice Chair)  
 Cllr Cecilia Motley

**Statutory/Voluntary Agencies & Individual members**

Individual Member	Alison Caffyn
Individual Member	Harriet Carty
Individual member	James Williamson (Vice-Chair)
Town & Parish Council representative	Keith Bartlett
Town & Parish Council representative	Hilary Clayton-Smith
British Horse Society	Ronald Repath
Butterfly Conservation	Jenny Joy
Country Land & Business Association (CLA)	Caroline Bedell
Land Life & Livelihoods	Rob Harris
Longmynd & District Bridleways Association	Sue Lee
NFU	Helen Cork
Ramblers Association	Sue Jones
Shropshire Geological Society	David C Smith
Strettons Civic Society	Ian Dormor
Shropshire Wildlife Trust	Veronica Cossons

**Observers/Officers**

Shropshire Council	Deb Hughes (Shropshire Outdoor Partnerships Manager)
	Tim Ward (Committee Officer)
Shropshire Hills AONB Partnership staff team	Cath Landles (Community & Landscape Officer)
	Nigel McDonald (Sustainable Business Officer)
	Phil Holden (AONB Partnership Manager)

**1 Welcome and Apologies for Absence**

- 1.1 In the absence of the Chair, the Vice-Chair, Councillor Barker chaired the meeting.
- 1.2 The Vice-Chair welcomed Rob Harris, who was representing Land Life and Livelihoods in the absence of Michael Whithouse and Joy Greenall.
- 1.3 Apologies for absence were received Tony Bostock (Severn Rivers Trust), Sarah Bury (CPRE), Pete Carty (National Trust), George Chancellor (Individual Member), Joy Greenall (Land Life & Livelihoods), Geoff Grimes (Shropshire Tourism), Heather Kidd (Shropshire Council), Hazel McDowall (Natural England), Fiona Pidduck (Individual Member), Phil Ridley (North Shropshire College), Leo Smith (Upper Onny Wildlife Group/Shropshire

Ornithological Society), Cllr Chris Turley (Telford & Wrekin Council), Cllr David Turner (Shropshire Council) and Michael Whithouse (Land Life & Livelihoods).

- 1.4 The AONB Partnership Manager informed the meeting that it had been agreed with the Local Enterprise Partnership that they would take a seat on the Partnership but they had not yet agreed who their representative would be.

## 2 Note of the last meeting

- 2.1 The note of the last meeting had been circulated.

### 2.2 **RESOLVED:-**

That the note of the last meeting be confirmed as a true record.

- 2.3 The AONB Partnership Manager said that he had been asked by a member of the public whether the AONB Partnership desire to relocate its office was driving the proposed move of Church Stretton library. He had advised the enquirer that this was definitely not the case, but as publicly stated, the Partnership was indeed interested in the possibility of occupying the library premises, if they should become vacant as a result of Shropshire Council decisions about reorganisation of services in the town.

## 3 AONB Partnership Update

- 3.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which provided an update of recent activity.
- 3.2 The AONB Partnership Manager advised members that much progress was being made by the Stiperstones and Corndon Hill Country Landscape Partnership and this would provide for the focus for the Annual Tour in June.
- 3.3 The AONB Partnership Manager informed the meeting of the launch of the Shropshire Hills AONB Conservation Fund. This had been developed with funding from the Jean Jackson Charitable Trust, the Millichope Foundation and from the Friends of the Shropshire Hills AONB, and had replaced the Sustainable Development Fund. New guidance and support to applicants had been developed. He advised that 14 applications for funding had been received and the Conservation Fund Panel would be meeting on the 19 March to allocate the £25,300 available for 2015-16.
- 3.4 The AONB Partnership Manager advised members that a four year funding package had been secured from WREN for a River Clun Recovery Project, and that Alison Jones, who had previously worked in the area for FWAG, had been appointed to the post of part time Clun Catchment Officer.
- 3.5 The AONB Partnership Manager informed the meeting of a small project looking at the application of the 'FARMSCOPER' modelling tool in the Clun Catchment, which had been funded by Natural England's area innovation fund. Six farm visits had been carried out by ADAS to apply the FARMSCOPER tool to identify the top farming practice measures to reduce loss of sediment, nitrate and phosphate into the river. He advised that the reports were currently being prepared and would support actions and recommendations arising from the River Clun Nutrient Management Plan. Cllr Barker commented that a lot of focus had been put on the effects of agriculture and asked whether the effects of householders had been assessed. He was informed that some work had been done to assess the effect of septic tanks in the upper catchment and the effect had been negligible but it was not known whether this was the case for the whole of the catchment area. It was also commented that a significant source of phosphate was from the sewage works in Bishop's Castle, and there was also run off from highways.

3.6 The Vice –Chair thanked the AONB Partnership Manager for his update.

#### **4 LEADER 2015-20 Bid**

- 4.1 Members received a report which provided an update on the 2015-20 LEADER programme.
- 4.2 The AONB Partnership Manager advised the meeting that the bid submitted to Defra for the AONB Partnership to deliver the LEADER programme in southern Shropshire had been successful and the programme budget had been confirmed at 2,540,000 euros which was the 13<sup>th</sup> largest allocation among the 80 LAGS. He commented that the sterling equivalent of the funding would be confirmed annually which could make planning ahead more difficult as the actual sterling programme budget would be dependent on fluctuations in the exchange rate during the period.
- 4.3 The AONB Partnership Manager informed the meeting that following confirmation of the programme budget, the operational arrangements had been planned in more detail, and a request had been made to DEFRA to enable the Partnership to operate the management and administration (M&A) at the maximum allowable rate of 18%. He advised that the current Co-ordinator's post would be upgraded to take account of the extra responsibility associated with the new programme, and there was a small amount of money in the budget which may be used to pay for a limited amount of work by other Partnership staff. Ms Caffyn queried as to whether core staff could work outside the boundary of the AONB. The AONB Manager said that there would only be a very limited amount of time available for this type of work, so this was unlikely to be a significant issue.
- 4.4 The AONB Partnership Manager advised that there was need to appoint Approvals and Appraisal Panels and these would need to include representatives from the wider working area of the LEADER programme, and that members would need to be appropriate to the priorities set out in the Natural Growth LDS. He added that the recruitment adverts would be placed shortly. It was hoped that recruitment would be completed in time for members to take advantage of training provided by DEFRA but that if this was not possible, the information gained through this training could be cascaded down to members through local training.
- 4.5 Mrs Motley advised that she had been appointed to the RDPE Monitoring Board and would feed back any information to the Partnership team.
- 4.6 Ms Caffyn enquired as to whether the LEADER bid in North Shropshire had been successful. The AONB Manager advised her that following the bid had been turned down and an appeal had been unsuccessful. He added that there were a number of other small grant schemes where projects could submit bids to which may go some way to plugging the gap.
- 4.7 Mrs Carty queried the level of match funding that would be required and whether this would need to be in the form of cash. The AONB Manager advised that the detail had not yet been received but that in the past "in kind" match funding had been allowed. The intervention rates in this round of LEADER were however considerably lower than previous rounds, typically 40%, so more match funding would be required by projects.

#### **5 Area-Based Working in the AONB**

- 5.1 Members received the report of the AONB Partnership Manager which provided an update on the various area-based partnerships which were operated by or supported by the AONB Partnership.

5.2 The AONB Partnership Manager reminded members that the AONB Partnership team supported a number of local area partnerships which focussed on landscape and conservation issues and supported the work of the Partnership. He advised that currently the Partnership supported the following groups: -

- Wrekin Forest Partnership
- Clun Catchment Partnership
- Clee Hill Partnership
- Stiperstones and Corndon Hill Country Landscape Partnership Scheme

and that each group had their own Terms of Reference which were published on the AONB website along with minutes of meetings.

5.3 The AONB Partnership Manager advised Members that, amongst other benefits, the groups were an important means of taking forward the Biodiversity Priority Areas for Action which were one of the key approaches for biodiversity in Shropshire, and that these areas would be a good guide for the development of any further groups in the future.

5.4 Mrs Bedell queried how Nature Improvement Areas were set up (NIAs). The AONB Partnership Manager advised that they could be self-appointing, but the guidance recommended that the support of the Local Nature Partnership along with relevant local stakeholders.

## **6 Shropshire Hills Shuttles**

6.1 Members received a presentation from the Sustainable Business Officer on the Shropshire Hills Shuttles which outlined the performance of the two Shuttles services and proposals for the future running of the service.

6.2 The Sustainable Business Officer informed the meeting that on the whole passenger numbers had increased year on year, but the service was still very dependent on public subsidy and partner contributions.

6.3 Several members made suggestions for alterations to the service which the Sustainable Business Officer agreed to consider.

6.4 The Vice Chairman thanked the Sustainable Business Officer for his presentation.

## **7 John Muir Award**

7.1 The meeting received a presentation on the John Muir Award scheme from the Community and Landscape Officer (Copy attached to minutes). This set out her work with primary schools on the John Muir Award, an environmental award focussed on wild places which consisted of three levels, each having four challenges. She went on to outline some of the work completed to date and worked planned for the future.

7.2 Members congratulated the Community and Landscapes Officer on her valuable work and the Vice Chair thanked her for her presentation.

## **8 Dates of Next Meetings**

8.1 The AONB Partnership Manager reminded members that future meetings of the Partnership would be held on: -



Thursday 25 June 2015  
Tuesday 17 November 2015

He advised members that the next meeting would be held in Snailbeach Village Hall and would be followed by the Annual Tour which would be based on the Stiperstones and Corndon Hill Country Landscape Partnership.

Signed ..... (Chairman)

Date:

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25 June 2015

**3**

## AONB PARTNERSHIP ACTIVITY UPDATE

**Responsible Officer** Phil Holden, AONB Partnership Manager  
e-mail: [phil.holden@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:phil.holden@shropshire.gov.uk) Tel: 01588 674088 Fax 01588 674099

### Summary

This paper provides members with a summary update of recent activity of the AONB Partnership staff team, and a staffing update.

### Recommendation

The Partnership is recommended to note the information provided and offer comments.

### KEY AREAS OF PROGRESS IN 2015-16 (April 2015 – present)

**Take and co-ordinate action to conserve and enhance natural beauty, to promote wellbeing, enjoyment and understanding and to further sustainable development.**

- **Stiperstones and Corndon Hill Country Landscape Partnership Scheme**  
Full update will be given as part of the Tour.  
See also <http://www.stiperstonesandcorndon.co.uk/>
- **LEADER** See agenda item 4.
- **Shropshire Hills AONB Conservation Fund** 14 grants awarded for 2015-16, totalling £25,300 including contributions from Jean Jackson Charitable Trust and Millichope Foundation (see Appendix 1).
- **Rivers** Four year WREN-funded River Clun Recovery Project started in April 2015 (WREN is one of the Landfill Tax funds). Alison Jones is working in the part-time project officer post, initiating contact with landowners (further information in agenda item 7). Management Plans for the recovery sites have been prepared.  
<http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/looking-after/projects/rivers/>

**FARMSCOOPER in the Clun catchment project** is completed and written up, with any comments awaited from participating farmers before publication. FARMSCOOPER is a modelling tool which has been used to identify top farming practice measures to reduce loss of sediment, nitrate and phosphate into the river. This project supports actions and recommendations arising from the River Clun Nutrient Management Plan.

Meeting of Clun Catchment Partnership on 17 June, with proposal to create a locally-determined Nature Improvement Area (NIA) for the Clun Catchment. This should help to give recognition to the ecological value of the catchment and hopefully support future funding bids and provide a focus for work of the Catchment Partnership. It is not an official designation that carries any legal implications. Input to Teme Partnership, Clun Steering Group, and Clun Field Officers Group.

- **Shuttles** services for 2015 under way, including third season of Castle Connect service from Ludlow. Two roadshow events held to publicise start of season. Some very good

feedback facilitated through the use of an evaluation form included with the timetable. Also great feedback from communities and business as well as via social media..

- **Shropshire Hills Sustainable Business Scheme** stands at 80 members. Consultation in progress regarding changes to streamline the administration of the Scheme and pledge process, e.g. three year membership rather than annual.
- **Promotion** activity. 3 press releases issued (year to date) and continued output on social media. Spring E-newsletter issued. Talks to Strettons Civic Society and Severn Trees Trust, Radio Shropshire interview on rivers work. Review of Communications Strategy.
- **Advice and support** to a range of activities and projects, including Western Power undergrounding programme, joint work with CPRE and Norbury School, Clun Forest History Group.
- Meetings held of **Wrekin Forest Partnership** and draft new Wrekin Forest Plan in preparation.

#### Project development

- Involvement in 'Stepping Stones' feasibility work for a **landscape-scale conservation project focused on the Long Mynd and Stiperstones area**.
- Input into proposals by the Foundation for Common land for a **possible Commons project**, with activity in the Shropshire Hills AONB and other upland areas.
- Discussions with Woodland Trust and other partners about the possible development of **new woodland project work**, e.g. on PAWS (Plantations on Ancient Woodland Sites), woodland social enterprises.

#### **Develop policy and strategy for the area through the AONB Management Plan, and influence the policies and strategies of others.**

- Text version of approved **AONB Management Plan 2014-19** available on website. Work in progress on basic designed pdf.
- **Sustainable Tourism Strategy and Action Plan** Ongoing support to Shropshire Hills and Ludlow Destination Development Partnership.  
<http://www.shropshirehillstourismpartnership.org.uk/>
- Input to southern Shropshire Walking Forum and various steering groups led by others.
- **Planning**. Submissions on five planning applications –
  - Church Stretton Housing, Land east of Shrewsbury Road – 2.6.15
  - Springbank Employment Site, Church Stretton – 2.6.15
  - Whitton Solar Farm, Caynham – 23.4.15
  - Proposed dwelling NW of the Fishpools, Pontesford Hill – 23.4.15
  - Newcastle Hall Barns, Newcastle, Craven Arms – 14.4.15
- Input to other **non-planning casework and strategies**, including EA River Basin Management Plans.

#### **Develop the AONB Partnership as an inclusive and effective organisation.**

- Input to **National Association for AONBs**, through frequent information sharing and consultations. <http://www.landscapesforlife.org.uk/>

- Draft constitution prepared for establishing the Shropshire Hills AONB Conservation Fund as a **charity**.
- Further discussions about possible **relocation of office** to Church Stretton, and formulating proposal to manage the **Church Stretton Visitor Information Centre** on commissioned basis with financial support from Shropshire Council.

**Support the involvement of the community in the management of the AONB (also a cross-cutting theme in some items above).**

- Support and advice for a wide range of **community projects**.
- 2015 **volunteer-led guided walks programme** under way.
- John Muir Award programme with **schools** (education/activity programme themed on wild places), currently working with Bucknell and Rushbury primary schools. Training day for leaders on John Muir Award planned for late March.
- **Friends of the Shropshire Hills AONB** currently has 128 members (including joint couple/family memberships). Andrew Wood is helping as a volunteer with member recruitment. The annual social event is a tour of the Clun uplands on 12 July.

## **STAFFING**

Alison Jones started on 7 April as Clun Catchment Officer on the River Clun Recovery project.

### **List of Background Papers**

Shropshire Hills AONB Management Plan 2014-19.

The full 2015-16 Team work programme can be made available to members on request.

### **Human Rights Act Appraisal**

The information in this report is compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998.

### **Environmental Appraisal**

The recommendation in this paper will contribute to the conservation of protected landscapes.

### **Risk Management Appraisal**

Risk management has been appraised as part of the considerations of this report.

### **Community / Consultations Appraisal**

The topics raised in this paper have been the subject of earlier consultations with Partnership members.

### **Appendices**

**Appendix 1 Shropshire Hills AONB Conservation Fund grants 2015-16**

## Appendix 1 Shropshire Hills AONB Conservation Fund grants 2015-16

Name of Organisation	Name of project	Amount of grant	Planned total project value	Rate of grant
South Shropshire Youth Forum	Clee Hill and Church Stretton Young Rangers	£3,000.00	£5,105.50	58.76%
Church Stretton Town Council	Developing a vision for Rectory Wood & Field	£1,000.00	£1,500.00	66.67%
John Osborne Arvon Centre	The Dovecote Meadow and Orchard Project	£2,284.00	£4,213.50	54.21%
Redlake Valley CBS	Raising awareness of woodland conservation and the work of RVCBS	£1,136.00	£2,800.00	40.57%
Loudwater Studio	Five Sites, Five Senses	£2,530.00	£4,283.00	59.07%
Shropshire Wildlife Trust	Discover Shropshire Hills - John Muir Award	£3,000.00	£4,800.00	62.50%
Friends of Pontesford Hill	Pontesford Hill Appeal	£500.00	£207,500.00	0.24%
West Mids Butterfly Conservation	Species Champion - sponsoring a species in the new book covering butterflies of West Mids	£150.00	£4,000.00	3.75%
Leigh Hall Estate	Bromlow Callow Gorse Control	£1,500.00	£3,018.75	49.69%
Stiperstones & Corndon LPS	Built Heritage L3 Training	£1,000.00	£3,220.00	31.06%
Stiperstones & Corndon LPS	Ground Nesting Birds Recovery Project	£3,500.00	£10,005.00	34.98%
Upper Onny Wildlife Group	Upper Onny Invasive Plant Project	£2,200.00	£3,498.00	62.89%
S Wheeler & Son	Bales Education Facilities	£1,000.00	£1,400.00	71.43%
Severn Rivers Trust	Teme Riverflies Training	£2,500.00	£5,260.00	47.53%
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>£25,300.00</b>	<b>£260,603.75</b>	<b>9.71%</b>



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## **AONB PARTNERSHIP BIENNIAL MEMBERSHIP REVIEW**

**Responsible Officer** Phil Holden, AONB Partnership Manager

e-mail: [phil.holden@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:phil.holden@shropshire.gov.uk)

Tel: 01588 674088

Fax 01588 674099

### **Summary**

This paper provides information to inform the biennial membership review for the Partnership, and seeks decisions on the extent of review desired.

### **Recommendation**

The Partnership is recommended to request some organisations to reapply for membership, and to consider reducing the number of seats in some categories.

### **Background**

The AONB Partnership Terms of Reference provide for a biennial review of membership. This involves appointment to the individual member seats (which are on a two year term), and on occasions also some appointments to the organisational seats. It was agreed in November 2014 that this summer's review would also include direct applications for the Parish and Town Council seats, to be appointed by the Partnership itself, rather than these being appointed by SALC as previously.

The Partnership is requested to decide on whether reapplication for some of the organisational seats should take place. Also, since the changes in LEADER mean that the AONB Partnership's Terms of Reference will require further change, there is the opportunity for the Partnership to reduce the number of seats in certain categories if it wishes. The comment is occasionally received that the Partnership is a large group, and reducing the number of seats may not actually reduce participation overall, but keep a focus on those more active partners. The table of attendance at Appendix 1 shows the attendance at meetings over the last two years, to inform and guide decisions about the membership review (with apologies for any errors that may be included).

**List of Background Papers**

Terms of Reference for the AONB Partnership, at <http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/looking-after/partnership/>.

**Human Rights Act Appraisal**

The information in this report is compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998.

**Environmental Appraisal**

The recommendation in this paper will contribute to the conservation of protected landscapes.

**Risk Management Appraisal**

Risk management has been appraised as part of the considerations of this report.

**Community / Consultations Appraisal**

The topics raised in this paper have been the subject of earlier consultations with Partnership members.

**Appendices**

Appendix 1 Attendance of members at meetings in the last two years



Appendix 1 AONB Partnership attendance 2013-15

No.	Title	First Name	Surname	Organisation	Category	19-Nov-13	18-Mar-14	01-Jul-14	18-Nov-14	17-Mar-15	total	%	
	Ms	Alison	Caffyn		Individual	1	1	1	1	1	5	100%	
	Mr	George	Chancellor		Individual	1	1	1	1		4	80%	
	Mrs	Elizabeth	Thomas		Individual	1	1	1	1		4	80%	
	Mrs	Harriet	Carty		Individual	1		1	1	1	4	80%	
	Mr	James	Williamson		Individual	1		1	1	1	4	80%	
	Mr	Edward	Dugdale		Individual	1	1	1			3	60%	
7	Mrs	Fiona	Pidduck		Individual	1			1		2	40%	
	Cllr	Tim	Barker	Shropshire Council	Local authority	1	1	1	1	1	5	100%	
	Cllr	Heather	Kidd	Shropshire Council	Local authority	1	1	1	1		4	80%	
	Cllr	David	Turner	Shropshire Council	Local authority	1	1	1	1		4	80%	
	Cllr	Chris	Turley	Telford & Wrekin Council	Local authority	1		1	1		3	60%	
5	Cllr	Cecilia	Motley	Shropshire Council	Local authority					1	1	20%	
	Mr	David C	Smith	Shropshire Geological Society	Non-statutory	1	1	1	1	1	5	100%	
	Mr	Ronald	Repath	British Horse Society	Non-statutory	1	1		1	1	4	80%	
	Mrs	Sue	Lee	Long Mynd & District Bridleways Assoc	Non-statutory	1	1		1	1	4	80%	
	Mrs	Sue	Jones	Ramblers Association	Non-statutory	1	1	1		1	4	80%	
	Lady	Veronica	Cossons	Shropshire Wildlife Trust	Non-statutory	1		1	1	1	4	80%	
	Mr	Ian	Dormor	Strettons Civic Society	Non-statutory	1	1	1	1	1	5	100%	
	Mrs	Sarah	Bury	CPRE	Non-statutory	1		1	1		4	80%	
	Mrs	Gillian	Binks	Caring for God's Acre	Non-statutory	1		1			2	40%	
	Mrs	Carol	Griffiths	National Farmers Union	Non-statutory	1		subs		sub	3	60%	
Page 13	Mr	Lee	Chapman	Shropshire Hills Tourism	Non-statutory	1	1		1		3	60%	
	Mr	Marc	Liebrecht	Institute of Chartered Foresters	Non-statutory	1			1		3	60%	
	Ms	Caroline	Bedell	Country Land & Business Association	Non-statutory				1	1	2	40%	
	Mr	Geoff	Grimes	Shropshire Tourism	Non-statutory	1		1			2	40%	
	Mr	Leo	Smith	Upper Onny Wildlife Group/ Shrop Ornithological Soc	Non-statutory	1	1				2	40%	
	Mr	Phil	Ridley	Walford & North Shropshire College	Non-statutory	1			1		2	40%	
	Mr	Dave	Cowell	National Trust	Non-statutory	1			sub		2	40%	
	Ms	Jenny	Joy	Butterfly Conservation	Non-statutory	sub					1	2	40%
	Mr	Michael	Whithouse	Land, Life & Livelihoods	Non-statutory					sub		1	20%
	Ms	Caroline	Whiteman	SASTAK	Non-statutory	1						1	20%
	20	Mr	Tony	Bostock	Severn Rivers Trust	Non-statutory						1	20%
		Mrs	Hilary	Claytonsmith	Church Stretton Town Council	Parish/Town Council	sub	sub	1	1	1	5	100%
		Dr	Keith	Bartlett	Craven Arms Town Council	Parish/Town Council	1				1	2	40%
3	Ms	Vivienne	Parry	Ludlow Town Council	Parish/Town Council				1		1	20%	
	Ms	Hazel	McDowell	Natural England	Statutory	1					1	20%	
	Ms	Jo	Jury	DEFRA/RPA	Statutory						0	0%	
	Mr	Bill	Klemperer	English Heritage	Statutory						0	0%	
	Mr	Alan	Jones	Environment Agency	Statutory						0	0%	
5	Ms	Donna	Tavernor	Forestry Commission	Statutory						0	0%	
						<b>31</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>17</b>			
						78%	38%	48%	58%	43%			

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## PROPOSED CHARITABLE ORGANISATION

**Responsible Officer** Phil Holden, AONB Partnership Manager  
e-mail: [phil.holden@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:phil.holden@shropshire.gov.uk) Tel: 01588 674088 Fax 01588 674099

### Summary

This paper provides members with an update on progress to establish the Shropshire Hills AONB Conservation Fund as a charity, and invites any volunteers to come forward for the voluntary trustee roles.

### Recommendation

The Partnership is recommended to note the information provided and offer comments.

### Background

The AONB Partnership on 18 November 2014 supported in principle a proposal set out in a paper to that meeting to develop a charitable structure which is first and foremost a 'fund' rather than a group. Since that meeting the Shropshire Hills AONB Conservation Fund grant scheme has also been established (replacing the Sustainable Development Fund) within the Shropshire Council accountable body system. Following considerable research and development work, the Management Board on 6 May considered a draft constitution for the Shropshire Hills AONB Conservation Fund as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO).

The draft constitution follows the Charities Commission template for a Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) using the 'foundation' model, where the only voting members are the trustees. The CIO structure provides for limited liability for trustees, which is felt to be a very valuable factor.

It is now an appropriate time to recruit the initial trustees for the charity and involve them fully in the final refinements to the constitution leading to submission of the application to the Charities Commission. It is proposed to form the charity with four or five trustees, with the capacity for up to nine once established. Anyone interested in this voluntary role is now being asked to come forward, including AONB Partnership members, members of the Conservation Fund grant panel and other interested parties.

#### Skills and aptitudes required of trustees (not all trustees may have all of these):

- Knowledge of and passion for conservation, including landscape, nature and cultural heritage
- Knowledge of administration of small charities and experience as a trustee
- Skills and willingness to take on chairing, secretarial and treasurer roles

- Experience of fund-raising, including promotion and communications
- Recruitment of further and replacement trustees
- Experience of small grants schemes

[Note that some, but not all, of the Trustees are likely to be on the Grant Panel, which will also include some non-Trustees].

Volunteers interested are requested to send an email to Phil Holden by Friday 10<sup>th</sup> July, outlining how they could contribute to the charity and the skills needed. There will not be a formal selection process, but the Management Board will guide if there are more people interested than trustee roles.

<p><b>List of Background Papers</b>  Draft constitution for Shropshire Hills AONB Conservation Fund, available at <a href="http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/6.-Proposed-Charity-with-appendix.pdf">http://www.shropshirehillsaonb.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/6.-Proposed-Charity-with-appendix.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Human Rights Act Appraisal</b>  The information in this report is compatible with the Human Rights Act 1998.</p>
<p><b>Environmental Appraisal</b>  The recommendation in this paper will contribute to the conservation of protected landscapes.</p>
<p><b>Risk Management Appraisal</b>  Risk management has been appraised as part of the considerations of this report.</p>
<p><b>Community / Consultations Appraisal</b>  The topics raised in this paper have been the subject of earlier consultations with Partnership members.</p>
<p><b>Appendices</b>  None</p>